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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

Extension Service Circular 216

July 1935

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, England,
Greece, Malay States, Netherland India,
New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa,
Tasmania, and Wales

OFFICE OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSIONS
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DISTRIBUTION: A copy of this circular has been sent to each State extension director; State and assistant State leader in county agricultural agent, home demonstration, and club work; State agricultural-college library; and experiment-station library.

A U S T R A L I A
Calf-Club Work in Victoria

The desire to obtain better herds that has developed on so many farms has found an echo in the minds of farm children, and, where this awakened interest is found, junior stock-club work has been developed. Usually such clubs deal with some particular form of stock, as for instance, in Queensland, where pig clubs are most popular. In Victoria by far the greatest amount of interest has been developed in calf clubs.

Just as there are many kinds of club activities, and again considerable variation of stock clubs, so there is a difference in calf clubs. The ideal that is sought in calf-club work, is to own good, purebred stock. To form a pure-breed club is sometimes impossible, and the attitude taken by some promoters, that the stock must be pure or there will be no club, in some instances has resulted in no clubs being formed.

What was possible at Geelong in 1917, when the splendid enthusiasm of Mr. A. Griffiths brought about the organization of the Gala Calf Club, and gift calves were donated by some of the leading breeders, or at Ballarat and Sale, where the splendid assistance of the Rotary Club made it possible to organize strong clubs, is not necessarily possible even in some of our strongest dairying

centers, let alone in many of the isolated areas. Much credit is due to the splendid work and enthusiasm of committees and club leaders who are carrying on club work unostentatiously under these circumstances. A fine example of this is seen at Trafalgar South,

where the head teacher of the state school and the club committee have succeeded in organizing a purebred club. This was made possible through the generous financial help of a district farmer who lent the club sufficient money to purchase the original calves. In this comparatively unknown area, some fine calves are owned by the dozen members of the club.

At Tinamba, in East Gippsland, a club was organized recently under very difficult conditions. Here the promoters were faced with the definite knowledge that a pure-breed club could not be formed, although the desire to form such a club was present. In this case a committee was appointed; and efforts were made to form a grade calf club. Such a club has been organized, and a number

of calves have been purchased from members of the Maffre Herd Testing Association. These calves are all sired by purebred bulls, but bred from high-grade dairy cows. The calves are purchased at 1d.(2 cents) per pound of their dam's butterfat production. Therefore, a calf from a 300-pound-butterfat cow would

cost 25s. (\$6). The calves are purchased as young as possible, so that the junior members of the club have all the work of feeding and rearing their own calves. A clause in this club's regulations provides for the sale of the calf when it reaches the age of 3 years. With the money thus earned the member will be able to purchase a purebred calf, and a pure-breed club can be organized.

Purebred Calves
Not Essential

10145

A similar club was organized at Ballendella recently. The only calves purchased were those that had been marked under the regulations of the Victorian United Cow Testing Association. These calves were tattooed in the ear with their dam's brand number within 35 days of birth. Though it is true that pure-breed is the ideal form of club, it also is true that splendid clubs may be organized with grade calves.

In other clubs the children borrow a calf from their parents and feed and tend it until the club show day. At Winchelsea, a club leader had a parade of 21 members at the recent show. At Wurdale his efforts to organize a grade club resulted in the formation of a pure-breed club before the second year parade was held.

These splendid clubs should be multiplied a hundred-fold, for they are doing fine work. In Gippsland there are 20 clubs, most of which have purebred

stock. A strong club was formed at Sunny Creek, where over 50 head of pure stock are owned.

Some of the stock are a few months old, but they range up to 2-year-old heifers in milk.

This club also carries on the good work by herd testing the milking stock. A Babcock tester

is installed at the school, and each member is taught how to carry on milk testing and recording.--Journal of Agriculture, Victoria, February 1932.

B U L G A R I A

Extension Program in Agriculture and Health

Between January and June 30 an extension program in agriculture and health was carried on by a part of the former Bulgarian folk-school staff consisting of the American agriculturist and his Bulgarian assistant, the Bulgarian nurse, the kindergarten teacher, and the home-economics teacher. A health program was set up in four villages assigned by the government, and an agricultural program consisting of agricultural courses and farm demonstration projects. Instructors from three continuation schools helped in this work. The home-economics program consisted of holding classes in three of the villages and had help from women specialists in three continuation schools. Two kindergartens, started the previous year were continued and two new ones opened. Thus the four villages received intensive instruction and help by a rounded program in health, agriculture, homemaking, and home economics. In April the Ministry of Public Health took on the financial support of the health program in two of the four villages.

Excellent work has been done in home sanitation and homemaking. Models of furniture were exhibited and model houses opened for inspection. Many copies

were made by the villagers. Cesspools were put in, kitchen sinks were made, laundries, bathrooms, and kitchens were remodelled, and many closets and wall cupboards were constructed.

Subjects covered in the classes held in cooperation with the government teachers included cooking, pickling, brining, knitting, sewing, vegetable raising, poultry, and sanitary and aesthetic care of the home.-- The Near East Foundation Progress Report for 1934.

Home Improvement

C A N A D A

Boys' and Girls' Clubs

Organized boys' and girls' clubs in Canada now number 1,293, with a total membership of 21,430. The major proportion of these members are enrolled in cattle, swine, grain, poultry, potatoes, garden, and garment projects, but there also are clubs for sheep, foals and turkey raising, and for such crops as alfalfa, turnips, fruit, orchards, and corn. There are also 47 home-gardening and canning clubs.--The Farmer. Toronto, Canada. August 1, 1933.

Girls' Junior Institutes

Several Ontario counties have been holding achievement days among the Junior Institutes. Grey County held one at Meaford recently, with a good crowd and a real sense of achievement among the 120 present. The projects on which the girls have been working this summer were displayed; each girl brought two canned and two raw vegetables and two bouquets of flowers from her garden. In the afternoon there were various demonstrations such as how to set a table and serve a meal; how to make cottage cheese, with six ways of serving it; there was also a demonstration of flower arrangement, as well as a display of quilts and patches and a demonstration in salad-making.

Achievement Days

The Junior Girls of Lincoln County held their achievement day in the community hall at Beamsville. A table-setting demonstration by one of the girls was followed by a pleasing little talk by another on the making and uses of cottage cheese. Some pretty samples of rug and quilt making were displayed and an interesting talk accompanied each demonstration. Two young ladies from Jordan Station proved to be apt specialists at salad-making, concocting some succulent and appetizing viands from various crispy vegetables and red tomatoes. At the conclusion of the demonstration E. F. Neff, the county agricultural representative, made his comments on the work that had been carried out. The project was one of the first of its kind in the county.

--The Farmers' Advocate. Ontario, Canada. September 15, 1932.

Women's Institutes

Superintendents' afternoon at the joint session with the Manitoba Women's Institutes was a profitable afternoon, those taking part being, Miss Helen McDougall, superintendent of the Nova Scotia Women's Institute; Miss Bertha Oxnor, director, women's work, Saskatchewan; and Mr. George Putnam, who has been superintendent of Ontario Women's Institute for 29 years.

Miss Oxnor described the work of the Homemakers' Clubs in Northern Saskatchewan, where families have trekked from the southern drought areas.

Superintendents' Afternoon

In an original and interesting manner, Miss McDougall told of some of

Here these newly organized clubs are breaking down the loneliness of this newest Canadian frontier of settlement, are interesting themselves in public health and schools of their communities, and are in every way stimulating the mental, social, and moral life of the various districts.

the high lights of the committee work and Women's Institute rallies in Nova Scotia. This year Women's Institute members are adding "relief rows" to their gardens, this produce to be given to the needy in the fall. She told of the advance in home economics, which in 1903 meant skill in cookery and sewing and in 1933 is based on human relations and takes in a wide circle of subjects such as child welfare, home sanitation, home nursing, etc. No papers or long reports are given at the Women's Institute rallies, which are proving popular in this province and which aim entirely to bring out Women's Institute talents in drama, demonstrations, exhibitions, etc.

Mr. George Putnam outlined some of the vast extension projects of Ontario carried out through the media of the Women's Institutes. Last year there were seven 3-month courses in nutrition, home nursing, and sewing;

"Diamond Ring" Courses

34 one-month courses; 40 "busy women" three-day courses; and 63 three-day courses. This work too is carried on extensively among the 110 junior women's institutes with their approximate membership of 2,535. The coach-

ing or "diamond ring" courses for girls at various centers are proving popular.—Country Life in British Columbia. Vernon, British Columbia. August 1933.

Junior Farmers at the Shows

The Junior Farmer Department at the Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, is rapidly becoming one of the chief features of the entire week. This department attracted an entry list of well over 650 from counties of eastern Ontario and western Quebec. This is an increase of slightly over 100 entries above the mark established last year. The program included, in addition to the regulation judging competitions in domestic science, livestock, poultry, seeds and vegetables, such other features as competitions in halter-making and showmanship, and special classes for individual entries and club entries, open only to members of regularly organized boys' calf clubs in that section of the two provinces. Calf- and swine-club exhibits and judging contests are

quickenng the interest of thousands of boys in the handling of stock. At Sherbrooke Fair, for instance, two teams of two boys each were selected as champion dairy and beef-cattle judges to represent Quebec in the interprovincial judging competition for junior farmers at the Royal Winter Fair.

Judging Contests

These boys, finally chosen from 10 districts which have teams competing at the fair, will represent the most skillful junior judges of livestock from the 3,800 members of Quebec calf clubs. That is the extent to which this calf-club movement has spread in the Province of Quebec. Nova Scotia has a boys' and girls' club membership of 3,900 not all calf clubs, and the Provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward, and Ontario are rapidly enrolling a similar proportion of the farm boys and girls in these club projects. At Sherbrooke it was a treat to see these junior judges go to work, to watch the fine condition in which those showing calves presented their entries before the judges, and the skill with which they handled them. The classes were so organized, both in the individual-calf and showmanship contests and the judging competitions, that they ran like clockwork.

Each club entered three boys or girls with their three calves in the classes; and this year yearlings as well were shown, the best yearling from each club - last year's calves. Besides the club showing made by the boys, the individual members showed their calves individually by breeds; the first five in the individual classes were allowed to show in the open breed classes free of charge, provided the animals were registered in the name of the boy or girl exhibitor. Twenty-one clubs took part, with a total of 63 boys with calves while 20 yearlings were shown. Three scholarships

Scholarship Prizes
of \$80 each were awarded by the Quebec Department of Agriculture to winners in the judging competition who had not previously won scholarships or a trip to the Royal Winter Fair.--The Farmer. Toronto, Canada. October 1933.

Club Work in Thunder Bay District

We are advised by A. A. Toolc, agricultural representative for Thunder Bay, that the boys' and girls' club work, under the auspices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, had the most successful year in 1934 in the history of the district. There were 16 junior projects and 13 senior projects. All projects were completed in one event - The Kiwanis Club Camp and Competition at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition during the middle of August. All club members had the privilege of staying 3 days at the club camp with free meals, free entrance to the grounds, and free sleeping quarters. Junior club members totalling 313 completed 382 projects, and 70 senior club members completed 113 projects. The club members did splendid work, and had a fine array of exhibits at this annual event. These club members came from 19 clubs in the district. In addition to project work at home, the clubs held 93 meetings, 19 club tours, 45 soft-ball matches to a championship of the district, and their annual field day com-

Kiwanis Club Camp and Competition

prising track athletics for girls and boys. The Port Arthur-Fort William Kiwanis Club donated approximately \$800 toward financing the club camp and competition, assisted with various details of the camp, and had teams throughout the summer assigned to attend the club activities of each club. The Canadian Lakehead Exhibition Association paid the prize money in connection with club project classes, the amount between \$600 and \$700. At the conclusion of the club competition, the Ontario Department of Agriculture raised \$540 from the business men, councils, and service organizations of Fort William and Port Arthur, to award 28 trips, for boys and girls doing outstanding work, to the Minnesota State Fair during the first week in September.--The Farmers' Advocate. Ontario, Canada. December, 1934.

Agricultural Instruction

In the realm of agricultural instruction, it must be mentioned that the month of January 1935 was the beginning of 3-week courses for 125 sons of farmers, actually on the farms, who wish to follow, at an agricultural school, a special course in the things essential to their profession. It is to be foreseen that this year a great step will be taken toward practical training

in agriculture for the sons of farmers who want to return to the farm. These courses are already being given in 10 institutions of the province, but we foresee that this movement will assume larger proportions in the course of the year and that we shall find it even possible to establish courses of several weeks in the agricultural specialities such as horticulture, aviculture, animal industry, cultivation on a large scale, etc.--Le Journal d' Agriculture, Le Periodique de L'Elite Rurale. Quebec, Canada. January 1935.

C H I N A

The Lu Ho Rural Service Center

Rural fairs.--The country fairs were the first large piece of rural work that was done, though there had been some work with milch goats and poultry before. The fair, held in connection with the Harvest Home Festival of the Peiping District in the fall of 1927, was probably the first of its kind ever held in North China. Last fall the Lu Ho Rural Service Union conducted 11 of these fairs covering a period of 6 weeks. To those who have attended State and county fairs in America it might be difficult to recognize these displays as of the same order, but many of the same elements are there. That which is most important, perhaps, is the competitive exhibit of the farmers' own produce. The Chinese farmer is conservative and he may look at some article which the government or some school has been able to produce with no more interest than if he were looking at a giraffe or a dinosaur egg. But let him see some corn or beans with which his neighbor Wang or Chang has won a first prize and his interest is aroused, sufficiently perhaps to encourage him to try to do the same thing another year.

From 40,000 to 50,000 persons were directly reached by means of the series of rural fairs which exceeded the fondest hopes of their sponsors.

40,000 Persons Reached By means of them the Chinese farmer sees what he could do to raise better chickens and hogs; how he could improve his vegetables and general farming by using labor-saving machinery, studying seed selection, and exterminating or controlling the Demon Bug. Even forestation had a share, and in one town a special department for women's work drew large audiences.

These fairs are the red-letter days for the entire community, for they bring information about improving crops, exhibits of labor-saving machinery simple enough to meet the farmer's pocketbook, instruct as to proper breeding of poultry and stock as well as to control of insect pests through

Education Exhibits . and Prizes lectures and movies and the spreading of health knowledge by the same media. At one town 1,300 products were exhibited, setting a high standard for the farmer to aim at. The crowds usually begin coming at nine in the morning and closely examine all the exhibits of farm implements, seeds, silkworm raising, charts on child health

and hygiene, and even patronize the table where Bibles and other good literature are displayed. Amid great clapping and bowing, the prize-winning farmers walk up for their pins or certificates, and are they thrilled!

Short courses.--After the fairs are over, beginning about the middle of November the Lu Ho Rural Service Union conducts a "short course" for farmers at their headquarters in Tunghsien. The purpose of the course is to give the farmers 2 months of practical training in agriculture and rural affairs. There are very few schools in China which give practical work in agriculture below the college grade, so there is a great need for this type of adult education. Last fall 24 farmers ranging from 19 to 48 years of age enrolled for the 8 weeks of instruction. These Chinese farmers are a good, earnest group anxious to learn. At least three courses in agriculture are given and a good deal of general information.

4-Progress clubs. The 4-H club idea is taking hold among young folks in China's rural sections, says Harry S. Martin of Jefferson Academy, Tunghsien, North China. Mr. Martin specializes in agricultural work, part of which includes supervision of country fairs and classes for farmers, in other words, a type of rural extension service. Over 150 boys and girls from the country districts gathered for a conference and received with great enthusiasm Mr. Martin's suggestions for clubs. They have to call them the 4-Progress clubs rather than 4-H clubs, because Chinese writing does not have an alphabet. The character meaning "progress" or "going forward" is used where H appears in the American title.

The work of the 4-H clubs and the adult education movement in America and Denmark and other countries is a great incentive to workers in China.--Overseas News. American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. January 1935.

E N G L A N D

Women's Institutes

One of the most remarkable gatherings of women that London has ever seen assembled last month in the Albert Hall, when the annual delegate meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes was held, the chairman being the distinguished educationist, Miss Grace Hadow. Every village in England and Wales had its representatives, young, middle-aged and older women, who conclusively proved the success of the movement which in a few years has done so much to revolutionize the life of rural communities and bring greater interest into their lives.

The first women's institute in the United Kingdom was founded in Llanfair, North Wales, in September 1915.

Founded in 1915 Today there are 4,887 institutes in England and Wales, with 296,000 women

members, the latter figure being an increase of 4,000 over that of last year. Great enthusiasm was aroused by the statement made by Mrs. Batten, a delegate from East Sussex, who said, "We should do all in our power to keep together

those little homes where the people make their living at the oldest and most essential occupation - the cultivation of the land." Professor Gilbert Murray, who addressed the meeting said, "The world, as a whole, is rather sorely in need of women's attention. Its housekeeping is shocking and its food is terrible. It is also a little sick and requires nursing. In short, the world needs the attention of a pretty severe mother."--Farm, Field, and Fireside. London, England. September 2, 1932.

Courses at County Farm Institutes

There are seventeen county farm institutes in England and Wales. Their primary object is to provide instruction in the scientific principles underlying sound farming practices, and they have been especially and extensively equipped for the purpose. The instruction given is closely related to practices; this applies not only to general agriculture but also to market gardening, fruit growing, dairying and poultry-keeping.

The subjects dealt with and their order of importance vary somewhat at the different institutes, but a typical curriculum includes the following: Soils, manures, crops, livestock, feeding-stuffs, implements and machinery, veterinary hygiene, surveying and mensuration, farm bookkeeping, beekeeping and fungus and insect pests. Most of the courses start in October, one term being taken before Christmas and one after, but in some instances a full year's course is provided.

Facilities also are provided for short courses in special subjects, and most of the institutes provide instruction for women, particularly in such subjects as dairying, horticulture, and poultry-keeping.--Farm, Field, and Fireside. London, England. September 2, 1932.

Young Farmers' Clubs

It is now over 12 years since this movement was launched in this country. Like all movements, it has had its ups and downs, but it has gradually gone from strength to strength, and it is so vital to the welfare of the younger generation in rural areas that it should become a truly national one. The experience of the last few years has shown that an active young farmers' club in any locality has created a new spirit and a new vigour in the life of the countryside.

The federation bases its faith on the idea that the movement is unique among all organizations for boys and girls in that it is based on the care of livestock and the cultivation of the soil.

There are over 170 young farmers' clubs

National Federation affiliated with the national federation, and a condition of membership is that every member looks after something that lives or grows.--The Young Farmer, Official Organ of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. London, England. June 1933.

West Sussex clubs.--The Knepp Castle estate is in the center of the group of clubs in West Sussex, and by the kind invitation of Sir Merrick Burrell, chairman of the county agricultural committee and vice chairman of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, several hundred club members,

parents, and friends attended from all the neighboring districts. The promoter and organizer of the scheme was Mr. J. C. W. Simms, assistant agricultural organizer for West Sussex and leader of the Horsham Young Farmers' Club. He received active cooperation from the leaders of the various young farmers' clubs. Prior to the distribution the visitors, on arrival, were conducted by Sir Merrik Burrell and Mr. Walter Burrell on a visit of inspection round the farm. After the party had been entertained at tea by Sir Merrik, a move was made to the pens where the 120 gilts, matched in pairs,

were distributed by ballot to the members of the Horsham, Midhurst, and Steyning Clubs.

Gilt Distribution

In addition, a number of young pedigree boars are being reared by some of the older

members. The gilts are to be mated at a suitable age and the whole lot will be offered at a pedigree in-pig gilt sale conducted by Messrs. John Thornton, Hobson and Company, in May or June, 1935.

This scheme has been rendered possible through the young farmers' loan scheme adopted by the West Sussex County Council in 1932. This scheme enables

young farmers' clubs to borrow money to purchase stock and to cover insurance, the money being refunded at stated intervals or when the stock is sold. Through the sympathetic cooperation of the owners and

Loan Scheme

managers of certain well-known Large White herds it was found possible to obtain this large number of selected gilts at very reasonable prices.--The Young Farmer. 16 Russell Square, London, England. September 1934.

G R E E C E

Macedonian Village Extension

There are four objectives in the agricultural extension program in which experimentation is being carried on. Briefly they are: (1) To determine what type of field personnel is needed, (2) to determine the number of villages that can be handled and the kind of schedule the agriculturist should follow, (3) to determine what methods of procedure are needed by the agriculturist in conducting his extension work, (4) to determine a method of procedure in measuring field accomplishments as a basis for judging to what extent the objectives being experimented with are being realized.

As the project system seemed the most feasible, it was adopted in a form suitable to the intellectual level and financial resources. But it is difficult where the patriarchal authority in families governs the activities of the individual members. Progress is bound to be slow. Farmers are jealous of every inch of soil. A boy's time and labor belong to the family purse; therefore he cannot spend either one in developing new ideas not in accordance with patriarchal practices, much less take up a square foot of precious soil for "experimentation."

The latest development is the organization of agricultural committees composed of the most progressive farmers in each village to serve as a means of

developing the long-time program to be promoted under the guidance of the agriculturist and to record the agricultural situation of the respective villages in the minutes of the monthly meetings. These new committees will form a strong nucleus of progressive agricultural leaders in the country. So far there are six of these committees functioning. It can be seen that the responsibility for village improvement is being transferred from the agriculturist to the shoulders of the local farmers. In one village, the committee met and voted to promote four improved practices, namely, (1) select wheat seed, (2) deep plowing, (3) plow immediately

Agricultural Committees after harvest, and (4) plant cotton in rows. The committee put their ideas into practice on their own individual farms and then went out to promote those practices among other farmers. They even made field trips to follow up their recommendations.

The Agricultural Program

During the fiscal year 1933-34, the greatest agricultural contribution toward the improvement of the economic condition of the farmers influenced by agriculturists has been the acceptance of improved practices within existing enterprises, particularly in the cultivation of wheat, and has resulted directly in increased income for the farmer.

To say that the agriculturists are influencing 3,684 or 41 percent of all the farmers in their areas is a very conservative statement. Extension work spreads not only directly but indirectly, and more than 35 improved practices are being promoted by the farmers in the eight areas. Even the most conservative figure, 3,684, gives to each agriculturist direct influence over 460 farmers.

The Home Welfare Program

The whole home welfare program has spread out this year and is carrying on work in four villages more than last year - 14 in all. Besides in the five villages where there are home demonstration centers, classes are conducted also in the other nine villages in the public schools. Requests came in so frequently from neighboring villages for extension teaching that in November of last year a plan was organized under which 1 day a week the nurse and home economics workers go out from the home demonstration centers to the nearby villages. The nurse visits the homes while sewing classes are going on under the home-economics teachers. In the afternoon mothers' classes in hygiene are given by the nurse. The village provides the school as a meeting place and gives excellent cooperation. This new service doubles the number of people reached by any one home demonstration center.

A year ago a survey of peasant homes in the villages where there are home demonstration centers was started to find out how many had accepted certain improved practices. The studies are based on 10 "cooperating families" at each center.

The improved practices chosen fall into five main groups; that is, practices connected with home hygiene, food and diet, child hygiene, sanitation, and malaria control. The weakest point is sanitation. The probable reason is the expense involved in building a new toilet. One of the most interesting changes is found in the discontinuance of the practice of binding babies in swaddling clothes so tightly that only the head can wobble around. In 1932 every family followed this custom, but in 1934 none. The same figures are true for the practices of nursing babies at regular intervals. The changes in the section under malaria control no doubt are due to the efforts of both

Sanitation

the agriculturist and the sanitation supervisor to whom the agriculturist is expected to bring such items needing attention. No doubt the jump from 6 to 37 among the families having separate sleeping accommoda-

tions for children does not mean that beds were installed but that the children were removed from the adult bed and put on a mattress of straw on the floor. The change in the custom of removing outer clothing for sleep is also very remarkable, since the number of bed coverings is very limited.

Future Farmers' Clubs

With the introduction of Future Farmers' Clubs all activities such as libraries, organized sports and playgrounds become the responsibility of these clubs, which are linked up with agricultural extension in such a way that there is every probability of their continuing indefinitely. Up to the present, these clubs have been successful in a short time in developing community leadership. The farmer boys are keenly interested in progressive methods of agriculture, and gradually this interest is being broadened to the point of looking upon the progress of the community as a part of their economic improvement as well as the improvement of their farming.

The clubs have become responsible for building school toilets, opening reading rooms, planting community gardens, running of intervillage athletic meets, etc.--The Near East Foundation Progress Report for 1934.

M A L A Y S T A T E S

Weekly Fairs

Weekly village fairs, which have proved successful in several parts of the Federated Malay States, have recently been organized at 10 convenient centers in Kedah by a committee of which the assistant principal agricultural officer is chairman. Fairs at two other centers are being arranged. Their object is to provide opportunities for the Malays to sell at reasonable prices, or to barter, their rice, vegetables, meat, fish, poultry, fruit, tobacco, or other produce and thus to encourage and extend the planting of foodstuffs and fruit and the rearing of animals and poultry. A similar fair recently has been started in Kampong Bahru, Kuala Lumpur. These fairs can assist materially in adjusting supply and demand in different parts of the country.--The Malayan Agricultural Journal. June 1932.

Rural Lecture Caravan

Several tours were arranged by the senior agricultural officer and 33 centers were visited. The program at all centers provided for an afternoon lecture and demonstration of exhibits, and an evening film show. The subjects treated were: Increased food production, improvement in padi cultivation, establishment of home gardens by school children, moldy rot disease control, cooperative marketing of eggs, cooperation and marketing of agricultural products, the particular subject for each evening being chosen to suit the needs of the respective centers.

As might be expected, attendance was always more numerous for the evening film performance than for the afternoon lecture and demonstration, although, with some exceptions, the attendance at lectures was very fair. For the films, attendance ranged between 300 and 1,800 and for the lectures, between 60 and 300. At 15 of the centers the lecture audience was 100 or over and for 5 of these centers an audience of over 200 was recorded.

Experience gained, however, had revealed that the afternoon is an unpopular time; that there is a demand for lectures specially prepared to deal with the particular agricultural problems of the locality concerned as opposed to lectures on general problems, and that more good is likely to accrue from a 2-day visit to each center instead of 1 day.

To meet these requirements it has been arranged that, for the future, 2 days will be spent at each center and that lectures, demonstrations, and films be given at about 7:30 in the evening. Specially prepared pamphlets to suit particular localities have been issued on the subject of padi cultivation.
--Report of the Field Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States for 1933.

N E T H E R L A N D I N D I A

"Landbauadviseurs"

A special corps of agricultural advisers, "Landbauadviseurs", was formed in 1908 in Netherland India, as it was felt that the relations with native agriculture and the inspection of demonstration fields should be entrusted to qualified agricultural engineers. The institution of this corps was of fundamental importance; the service began on a small scale but gradually was extended. It was only in 1920 that the services dealing with native cultivation were grouped into the section "Agriculture." An idea of the size of this section may be gained from the fact that in 1930 it included 298 persons namely, 1 chief of service, 5 inspectors of native agriculture, 1 inspector of agricultural education of natives, 1 assistant inspector for native agriculture, 62 advisers in agriculture and horticulture, 135 natives acting either as instructors in agriculture or as assistant advisers, 12 officials for agriculture, 13 officials for horticulture, and 68 superintendents.—The International Review of Agriculture. April 1932.

N E W Z E A L A N D

Young Farmers' Clubs

The great value of agricultural clubs has been well demonstrated by the success achieved by the boys' and girls' agricultural clubs, since their

inception in the Otago District in 1919. The annual report for the 1932-33 season indicated that approximately 3,000 boys and girls had participated in various sections of agricultural club projects consisting of crop-growing, calf-rearing, pig-feeding, and home-science competitions.

The agricultural clubs developed a strong competitive element; the majority of the members were drawn from rural primary schools, the numbers continuing after school-leaving age being comparatively small. The boys' and girls' club movement attracted strong support from juniors, but its continuance in post-school education met with little support; every endeavour was made to establish a senior division of agricultural club work, but the venture attracted only a small membership, and its extension was therefore limited.

The valuable information and experience gained from the junior boys' and girls' agricultural clubs led to the starting of a young farmers' club scheme, whereby in country districts local clubs would be formed bringing

together a group of young farmers between the ages of 14 and 25. Clubs were established along the lines indicated by the following brief outline relative to the constitution and operation of clubs:

Ages 14 to 25 Included

The movement is to be known as "Young Farmers' Clubs." Members are to be from 14 to 25 years of age. No member under the age of 17 is eligible for election to a controlling committee.

The object of the club is to promote agricultural education, leadership, thrift, perseverance, self-reliance, and cooperation with authorities in agricultural education.

All club meetings are arranged and controlled by the executive. At these meetings lectures on agricultural subjects such as stock, crops, soil, etc.,

or any other subject pertaining to rural conditions are a prominent part of the activity. A person exceeding the age limit of club membership is appointed president. His duties are to attend club meetings and assist the young chairman in the guidance,

control, and development of club work generally. Club meetings are held monthly, and a nominal fee is levied on members to cover running expenses. A minimum of 10 members is required to form a club.

Successful field days, demonstrations, and programs of winter lectures and debates, etc., already have illustrated the valuable work which these clubs may be expected to accomplish. A properly constituted organization for the fullest development of the scheme has been established. A general meeting was convened at Dunedin in February 1934. It was attended by representatives of existing district clubs, department of agriculture, Farmers' Union

and other allied organizations. At this meeting the New Zealand Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (incorporated) was constituted, following which a general council

and provincial executives were elected. To the federation is given the responsibility of directing the movement on a national basis, and marked progress has been made. Apart from several additional clubs being

Federation Directs Movement

formed in the Otago District, provincial executives and clubs are now operating in both Southland and Canterbury and probably at the end of the present year a chain of clubs will be operating throughout the South Island.--New Zealand Journal of Agriculture. Dunedin. October 21, 1934.

S C O T L A N D

Junior Agricultural Clubs

This movement in England has from the outset been subject to some form of central organization and control. There is an efficient system of supervision on a national basis, whereby the formation of new clubs, visits, and advice to existing clubs, and the promotion of district and national activities are facilitated.

North of Scotland Agricultural College area.--In Scotland, on the other hand, there is so far no national organization. Assistance in the formation, organization, and work of the junior agricultural clubs forms a part of the duties of the county organizers. In the area of the North of Scotland College, where the first young farmers' club in Scotland was started at Lanergill in 1923, the movement has spread steadily during the last 10 years and the college has based its organization on a system of local and county committees which will, it is hoped, lead eventually to the formation of a national committee. There are now 25 clubs in this area with a total membership of about 500. Each county organizer acts as a county club leader, in which capacity his chief duties are to aid the movement by propaganda lectures; to aid and advise local club leaders in the organization of local clubs, and in preparing schemes of club work; to select and organize local club committees, from which the club leaders are chosen; to coordinate club work in his district, assist in the instruction of club members, and report progress to his county committee and the college; to keep an official register of all clubs in his

district; to file copies of approved schemes of club work; and to assist with the educational work of the clubs generally. Each

club is provided with a constitution and rules, and emphasis is laid on the proper conduct of all business at meetings. A

program of practical work in conformity with

Duties of the
County Organizers

the seasonal operations of the farm is arranged at the annual general meeting; each member must undertake one, and not more than two, practical subjects at a time. A record of the work is kept by each member and handed to the committee at the end of the period. Normally, one of the subjects is undertaken by a majority of club members for the purpose of interclub competitions and exhibitions, but the selection of the second subject is left to individual members. Outdoor games and social amusements are also included in club programs.

A summary of the program of work carried on by two of the clubs during last year indicates the typical education and training young people are receiving through their club programs. In the first case, eight outings were

held during the summer to different centers in the area, where inspections and demonstrations were carried out on cattle, sheep, and horses, and also on plots of growing potatoes. Judging competitions were held on each occasion.

Character of Program
In the winter session lectures were given by prominent agriculturists on a variety of subjects. In the second case, the summer program included demonstrations, followed by competitions for which marks were recorded on such subjects as use of ropes (halter making, splicing, etc.), stack building, plowing (care of plow, setting, etc.), hoeing, sheep shearing, and land surveying. Demonstrations at various centers of different types of livestock, turnips, oats, and barley, followed by judging, were also given. The winter program of lectures included such subjects as general management of breeding stock; grading of commercial stock and of prize animals; farm economy; care of implements; seeds and manuring. Each member of the club is encouraged to ask questions at demonstrations and lectures, and also to take his turn at proposing votes of thanks to demonstrators and lecturers, and prizes sometimes are offered for the best address on a chosen subject given by a member.

West of Scotland Agricultural College area.--Nine clubs have been formed in the West of Scotland Agricultural College area with a membership of 98. In this area also agricultural discussion societies have been formed at numerous rural centers, and these appear to meet with a readier response than do young farmers' clubs. The most successful young farmers' club in this area is in West Perthshire. It has a membership of about 40. Organized for training in stock judging, it has produced several highly successful teams, but its scope is now widening and demonstrations are conducted at selected centers where systems of farming are discussed and field experiments explained. Excursions to leading stock farms also are arranged.

East of Scotland Agricultural College area.--The area of the East of Scotland Agricultural College is devoted mainly to large-scale farming, and there are relatively few closely settled agricultural communities, which provide the most favourable opportunity for establishing the clubs. However, every encouragement and assistance is being given by the county organizers in the area, and two clubs recently have been established with a membership of 40. One of these clubs reared 10 shorthorn heifer calves last year. The county organizer delivered talks on topics such as calf rearing, stock judging, feeding of cattle, and identification of grasses. Visits to farms were arranged, and the club held a show in October. The other club undertook the feeding and management of weaned Irish-bull stinks purchased by means of a loan provided by a club member. The animals were balloted for and distributed among the members, general guidance in their care being given by the county organizer. A show and sale of the stock was held in May.

An important point of difference between English and Scottish clubs is the age limit of membership. The former are open to boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 21; in the latter the age varies in the different areas, and even in individual clubs in the same area. In the north, young persons of both sexes between the ages of 16 and 25 years are eligible (this explains the alteration in

Difference between
English and Scottish clubs

name from Young Farmers' Clubs to Junior Agricultural Clubs in this area); in the west the ages range from 15 to 23 years; in the two clubs in the east, the respective age limits are 10 to 20 and 9 to 18 years.

The county organizers have found a keen desire in certain districts on the part of adults to form clubs on similar lines, and eight senior agricultural clubs now have been formed in the North of Scotland College area.
---The Scottish Journal of Agriculture. July 1933.

SOUTH AFRICA

District Extension Officers

With the appointment of the first four district extension officers in January 1925, the department of agriculture instituted a service which has since proved to be of distinct benefit to the farming industry.

All the extension officers are university graduates in agricultural science. Some have additional post-graduate qualifications, and several Qualifications have had considerable practical experience in farming. Before entering upon his duties in the area allotted to him, every extension officer is given a special opportunity to gain more experience in practical farming conditions, as well as of departmental organization and procedure. He is introduced to the various activities of the department of agriculture and to the facilities provided by this and other departments.

However well qualified he may be, the extension officer is not regarded as a specialist in any particular branch of farming. It is his duty to study the agricultural problems and potentialities of his area, and to keep the Duties department informed thereof; also to collect and disseminate such information as is calculated to be of particular interest in his area, and thereby to assist in developing an economically sound system of farming under local conditions. When a particular pest or disease or a promising crop or branch of farming requires special attention, the extension officer obtains the assistance of an officer of the department specially qualified to deal with the situation.

The officer who already has a knowledge of the conditions obtaining in his area, conducts his work according to the project system; he has a definite object in view with all his lectures, farm visits, demonstrations, etc. During the year the work of the extension officers was accompanied by considerable success. In different directions, definite progress could be observed as a result of their work. The number of farmers consulting extension officers in their offices is still increasing; during this year they numbered 6,579, as compared with 5,320 during the previous year. This is very encouraging to the department, as it is impossible for any extension officer to visit all the farmers on their farms, and it is therefore

appreciated when farmers do something of their own accord to come into contact with the officers of the department.

During the year under review, the 22 district extension officers paid 9,154 visits to 4,725 farms, gave 702 lectures and demonstrations at meetings attended by 27,443 farmers and persons interested, displayed 49 films (attendance 6,553), and acted as judges, etc., at 55 shows. They dispatched 5,509 letters of an advisory nature to the public, organized 12 farmers'

tours in which 311 farmers participated, and prepared 42 articles for publication.

Summary of Accomplishments

They further classed or handled the following livestock in an advisory capacity:

Cattle, 51,124; sheep, 6,655; pigs, 818; horses, 49; poultry, 16,724. The number of

cattle for the previous year was 17,720, which shows that considerable interest has been stimulated among farmers regarding the improvement of the quality of their cattle.

The soil-erosion committees are rendering active assistance and since the extension officers are ex officio members of these committees, they are

in a position to afford the necessary technical guidance in respect to the work done by the committee members, and

consequently extension work can be carried out on a much larger scale than if departmental officers only had to perform the work.--Farming in South Africa.

August 1931. November 1931, and December 1934.

Soil Erosion Committees

Home-Economics Extension

The country woman is realizing more and more the value of the guidance provided by the department in the sphere of home economics, and the demand for home-economics officers is growing constantly. Much interest is shown in the home-economics lectures and demonstrations, and these are usually well attended. This is encouraging, as this part of the work of the division definitely contributes much towards the building up of happy and healthy families, in the absence of which farming cannot remain on a progressive footing.

The number of women's branches in the union has increased from 621 to 685 during the period July 1, 1933, to August 31, 1934. The home-economics officers paid about 680 visits to women's branches and gave demonstrations. They attended 26 farmers' days and 3 agricultural-union conferences and judged at 35 shows. The total attendance at the branch meetings and the farmers' days was about 25,000. Ten short courses, held at the various schools of agriculture, were attended by 224 women. The home-economics

officers have written 24 articles for departmental publication, and a bulletin of 176 pages on foods and cookery has been compiled and published. They dispatched 3,254 letters and 1,685 circulars,

Work of Officers

and also supplied recipes and information to the offices of the trade

commissioner in London and the legation in Washington. They have also collaborated in the compilation of rules for judging. Their services for lectures, demonstrations, and judging at shows were in such demand that the limited number of officers could not comply with all the requests, there being only eight home-economics officers at the end of the year covered by this report.

The following are the main directions in which the home-economics officers work: The dissemination of knowledge on hygiene, dietetics, cookery, canning of fruit and vegetables; making the farm home more attractive; the most efficacious methods of housekeeping; making the best use of the materials obtainable on the farm.

Boys' Club Competitions

The department is continuing its efforts to stimulate interest in agriculture on the part of youth by means of boys' clubs and competitions. This system of healthy competition among our future farmers is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, as it not only assists in acquainting the young generation with the best farming methods, but also serves to inculcate a love of farming at an early age.

During the year 530 boys from 69 rural schools entered for the maize, tobacco, and kafir corn competitions; at two schools 26 boys participated in poultry club work. Good kafir corn crops were obtained, but the maize yields were rather low. Although the excessive rains caused considerable damage to the tobacco seedbeds, some boys succeeded in producing leaf tobacco of excellent quality. Active interest is being displayed in this work, and it is hoped that extension to other branches of farming, e.g. sheep and potatoes, will be possible shortly.

The products grown by the boys under this scheme were also exhibited at the Pretoria Show, and this materially contributed to the stimulation of interest in the work.--"Farming in South Africa", December 1934.

T A S M A N I A

Tewkesbury Farm Colony for Boys

In order to make some contribution to the solution of the problem of unemployment among youths it was decided to establish a farm colony for unemployed youths and to provide facilities for training them in farm work.

The primary objective of the colony is to find a healthy, congenial occupation for youths between the ages of 16 and 20 years who, through no fault of their own, have been unable to find employment. At the same time, there is a good opportunity for those who adapt themselves to farm conditions to obtain a good practical training in agricultural practices.

Object

The potato station consists of an area of approximately 600 acres, most of which is in a relatively undeveloped state. This enables the boys to take part in the work which is necessary when opening up virgin country and in the subsequent farming operations which are essential to maintain a fixed acreage under potatoes.

The boys are under the control of a resident supervisor who, besides being responsible for instructing them in farm work, supervises messing arrangements and organizes their recreation.

Routine work is allocated in turn, so that each boy has his share of milking, care of the horses, fatigue work, etc., thus, besides equally dividing those farm duties which call for earlier rising and longer hours,

each boy is able to gain experience in the necessity of thorough care of all livestock. Work undertaken by the boys to the present date includes the following:

Practical Work Log cutting, fern cutting, wood splitting, plowing, harrowing, cultivating, disk ing, drilling, potato planting, digging, fencing, and building construction.

In order to assist the boys to understand the work which they are doing, a few hours each week during the winter months are devoted to studying the theoretical work which is essential for the successful application of practical experience.

The boys are given instruction in such subjects as breeding and feeding of livestock, rotation of crops, potato diseases, simple farm book-keeping, uses of the various fodder plants, etc., and each week they write up their

Class-Room Instruction own account of the subject which has been under discussion. A record is kept of this work and each month points are allotted by the supervisor for practical work, general behaviour, and tidiness in camp. By this means a record of each boy's progress is kept.

Boys applying for admission to the colony must be prepared to remain for a minimum period of 6 months unless they are able to obtain permanent employment in the meantime. At the completion of the 6 months, those with satisfactory records are granted 8 days of leave and thereafter have the option of returning to the colony for the period of 12 months. Such discipline as is necessary for the well-being of all concerned is insisted upon, and any boy who is not prepared to conform to the rules of the colony is liable to dismissal.

Fares to and from the colony when commencing or completing service, or for the purpose of proceeding home on leave, are paid by the department, provided the boy concerned has conformed to the rules of the colony, but in

all other cases the boy is responsible for the payment of his own traveling costs.

Small Allowance
Given Boys

In addition to board and lodging, boys are given an allowance of 5 shillings per week, 3 of which is paid into their accounts at the savings bank, and the remainder paid to them in cash fortnightly. The money which

is banked can be withdrawn with the approval of the supervisor for the purchase of clothes, etc., and the bank books are handed to the boys on completion of their stay at the colony.

The boys were accommodated under canvas for a few months until they had erected five huts, which now form their permanent quarters. These huts were completed soon after Christmas. In addition to cutting all the logs on about 25 acres the boys did a great deal of fern cutting and a considerable amount of routine farm work. Each hut contains four bunks and a fireplace with many fittings which have been added by the occupants.

The boys do their own cooking. Cakes, and puddings are now quite well made, and one can always rely on the boys having plenty of wholesome, well-cooked food.

Every necessary step is taken to insure the health of the boys by recreation both indoors and out. Several of the boys are playing football, and have proved themselves worthy of the places they hold. Several games, including bagatelle, table tennis, and draughts have been obtained through the kindness of friends, and a wireless set has been donated. Results to date are certainly pleasing, for apart from assimilation of knowledge and increased usefulness on the farm, a distinct physical improvement is observed in the boys after they have been with us for a few months.--Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture. August 1934.

W A L E S

The Young Farmers' Club Movement in Glamorgan

Young farmers' clubs are clubs for all young people who have interests in crops or stock. The objects of the clubs are many, including the training of young people in:

- (1) The raising of stock and crops by approved methods of lecture, demonstration, discussion and debate.
- (2) The business side of stock and crop raising, by the keeping of cost of production and other records.
- (3) Cooperative action, individual responsibility and the management of affairs by conducting of club and other meetings.

The clubs consist of all young people between the ages of 10 and 21 years (associate members over 21 are also included) who elect their own officers and run the club under the guidance of an advisory committee composed of adults. The activities of these clubs cover a wide field such as:

- (1) Debates and discussions, by the members, of agricultural, horticultural, and poultry-keeping topics.
- (2) Lectures, demonstrations, and stock-judging classes in cooperation with the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee.
- (3) The feeding and breeding of livestock and the keeping of cost-of-production and other records in connection therewith.

Club work generally commences in October and runs on into March or April, when the fortnightly meetings are suspended for the summer. It should, however, be noted that stock-judging classes can be arranged by the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee during the summer months, which fit in with the show season. This has been done already in conjunction with the Llancarfan Club, with the subsequent formation of a stock-judging team which represented the county at the Aberystwyth Royal Welsh and London Dairy Shows in 1933. The team put up a very creditable performance and we hope to see the development of this feature among all Glamorgan clubs during 1934. This healthy competition will be a stimulus to club and interclub work. Further, it is hoped to convene a rally of all clubs in the county next summer.

Young farmers' clubs are open to all areas, the one essential condition being that its members will interest themselves in something which lives or grows. A minimum number of eight is required to start a club, and it is interesting to note that Llancarfan started with eight and that the present membership is upward of 60, which serves to illustrate the growth of a Glamorgan club.--The Glamorgan Farmer. Official Journal of the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee. April 1934.

Traveling Cheese School

The traveling cheese school usually begins its activities at Easter and lasts until September. The classes are formed as a rule from previous poultry, butter, or cheese classes which have been held in the district. Inquiries are made at the same time as to the demand for a class in the adjoining areas. Harvest is usually the students' greatest difficulty, as then the time which can be devoted to other ends necessarily is reduced to a minimum. The course is of 3 or 4 weeks' duration; the class meets daily for 4 or 5 hours at a time arranged to suit the convenience of the greatest number. A center is arranged. This is usually a dairy, chapel vestry, or perhaps a church hall, where there is available a plentiful supply of water.

A nominal fee of 1 shilling is charged. Students up to the present (this year) have brought in their own supply of milk, and naturally the cheese is taken home by whoever supplies the milk, although this rule is not strictly adhered to; visitors attending the classes sometimes buy the cheese. The agricultural committee supplies the equipment and utensils required, such

Students Bring Supplies

as a double jacket vat, presses, cheese moulds, etc. In some cases home vessels are borrowed so that home conditions may

be studied at the class. The cheeses made are Caerphilly, Cheddar, and Cheshire, and two soft cheeses -- Coulommier and Pont-l'Eveque. Caerphilly is made chiefly, as it is the cheese most in demand and finds a ready sale.

The number attending these classes varies from 6 to 12, and is composed of farmers' wives and daughters, milk vendors and others likely to benefit from the classes. The classes arouse and stimulate the interest of the

Class Room Instruction

student, and often result in further studies. For students who find it impossible to leave home, the traveling class is a boon. All the details of the process of cheese-making are dealt with, such as the causes

of milk sometimes working too fast, and various other faults. All this is fully investigated, and treatment for correcting these defects is given.

The farms in the district are visited, and advice where necessary is given. This varies from the handling of the milk to the adjustment of home utensils for cheese making. The student should make the most of her time, as the period spent in a district is only 3 weeks, but if this period, though all too short, has done anything to stimulate interest and increase efficiency, we feel we have our reward.--The Glamorgan Farmer, the Official Journal of the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee. County Hall, Cardiff, Wales. July 1934.



